

**CONGRESS.**

REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.

Senate, Monday, December 27.

The Senate was not in session on Monday.

**House of Representatives.**

Mr. Moore, of Ky., desired to offer a resolution, which was read for information, declaring Alexander H. Butler speaker of the House, to which objection was made by Messrs. Bingham and Barksdale. Mr. McCreand moved to strike out the name of Alexander R. Butler and insert that of John G. Davis—after a short running debate it was decided that objection having been made, the resolution was not before the House, when Mr. Smith, of Va., resumed the floor, yielded by him on Saturday, and proceeded to deliver a long and able speech in which he opposed the election of Mr. Sherman, and reviewed the subject of slavery from the time of the Declaration of Independence, to the present day, arguing that the clause in the Declaration of Independence, asserting that "all men are born free and equal" was intended to apply to the white people of the country as distinguished from the African race, and throwing the odium of all the agitation in the country on that subject, on the North. In support of his position, he had read by the Clerk, voluminous extracts from the writings, speeches and opinions of Messrs. Rives, of Va.; Justices Story and McLean, Clay, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Harrison, Gray, Otis, Wess, J. Q. Adams, Ingersoll, and others.

During the delivery of Mr. Smith's speech a friend sent him a glass of egg-nog, which he drank, tendering the compliments of the season to the House, which caused much merriment.

Mr. Burnett, I rise to a question of privilege. I desire to know whether this is a privilege or not. [Laughter.]

Mr. Moore, of Kentucky. I move that the House adjourn, that we all may take the same kind of a treat. [Laughter.]

The Clerk. The Clerk would say to the gentleman frankly, that he does not feel authorized to decide the question he has raised, but will refer it to the decision of the House, if he insists upon it. [Renewed laughter.]

Mr. Moore, of Kentucky, will the gentleman from Virginia yield to me to make a motion.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. In a moment.—The House will bear me witness that I was very willing for an adjournment, out of reverence for "the day we celebrate;" [great laughter;] but, sir, the party which regarded the Sabbath as an innovation upon popular liberty, and repudiates it as a social arrangement, was not willing to manifest its reverence for the birth day of the Saviour of the world, and hence they refused an adjournment at the commencement of the day's session. Now, sir, in a Christian and reverential spirit, having performed a labor of love in endeavoring, however feebly, to enlighten the darkened understanding of this side of the House, I am willing to give way for a motion to adjourn. [Cries of "No!" from the Republican benches.] It will be the pleasure of the House to adjourn, will yield very cheerfully. [Cries of "Go on!"] But I must resume in the morning.

Mr. McKnight. Before the gentleman yields, I wish to ask him a question in reference to the letter last read. I did not exactly understand it. Do I understand the gentleman to say that Mr. Clay looked upon slavery as an evil? Was that the purport of the letter?

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. Ask your question to-morrow.

Mr. McKnight. I desire to say to the gentleman upon the other side of the House, that I care nothing, personally, about an adjournment; but I think it is due to the boys upon this floor, and to the employees of this House, that we should adjourn. If there was any chance of electing a Speaker, I should be willing to have a vote taken; [cries of "Vote!" "Vote!"] but there is not, and I move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Conkling. I demand the yeas and nays.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. If there is to be any fuss about the matter I will go on.

Mr. Morris, of Pennsylvania. With due courtesy to the gentleman from Virginia, I would suggest that we all would be accommodated if the House would consent to a motion that he should publish the rest of his speech.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. No, sir; that will not do. I never make printed speeches, I speak them.

Mr. Moore of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield to me for a motion?

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I will for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Moore, of Kentucky. I desire the House to adjourn now. As was said on Saturday last, even the negroes have one week of holiday and recreation at Christmas; and I desire to know of those humanitarians here—[laughter]—those gentlemen who represent the philanthropists—if they desire us to remain here at hard labor; for it is awful hard to me. [Renewed laughter.] Will they insist upon depriving the employees of the House of their holiday? I am at least one week. [Laughter.] I would like it to adjourn for a time long enough to let me go home to Kentucky. [Laughter.] I there be any chance to organize the House, I am in favor of its organization. If there be one gentleman here, a man of honor—I want it distinctly understood that he must be a man of honor—[laughter]—who will say that we can organize the House by taking a ballot now, I am in favor of taking that ballot. I have listened with great pleasure to the speech of my friend from Virginia.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I must call upon the gentleman from Kentucky to make his motion, if he has one to make.

Mr. Moore, of Kentucky. Well, I move that the House adjourn for one week.

Mr. Bingham. I object to such a motion as that being received.

Mr. Houston. This is the day which is observed as—

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I can only say that I cannot consent to any such motion. My speech will hurt. [Laughter.]

Mr. Burnett. I understood that my motion to adjourn had been received.

Mr. Buffum. I call for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk commenced to call the roll.

Mr. Houston. If the gentleman from Kentucky will withdraw his motion to adjourn, I think it probable we may have an understanding that no ballot will be taken this evening. Let both sides agree to that, and then the gentleman from Virginia can proceed with his remarks.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I object to that utterly. [Laughter.]

Mr. Burnett. I think the House ought to adjourn, and I insist on my motion.

Mr. Moore, of Kentucky. I will submit

Mr. Morris, of Illinois. I can only say Mr. Clerk, if I hallooed as loud as I could, and as often as I could, for two or three minutes; but I was not recognized by the Clerk. If the objection comes too late, it is not my fault.

Mr. Washburn, of Maine. I ask whether the unanimous consent of the House will not be given to the withdrawal of the motion to adjourn, in order that we may go on and hear the rest of the speech of the honorable gentleman from Virginia. Let that be understood.

Mr. Burnett. I do not intend to withdraw my motion to adjourn; and gentlemen need not make any appeal to me on the subject.

Mr. Washburn, of Maine. I desire—

The Clerk. The Clerk desires to say to the gentleman from Maine, that the gentleman from Kentucky refuses to withdraw his motion to adjourn. The Clerk desires to say to the gentleman from Illinois, that if he had propounded his objection before a response had been made, it would have been recognized as in time. The call of the roll has been commenced, and a response having been made, no motion is in order during the call.

Mr. Washburn, of Maine. We might, by unanimous consent—

[Cries of "Call the roll!"]

Mr. Adrain. I would inquire from the gentleman from Virginia, how much longer he intends to occupy in making his speech; for that will guide my vote on a motion to adjourn to "Call the roll." I understood from the gentleman that he wished three hours more to conclude his speech. If that be so, I will vote to adjourn.

The question was taken; and it was decided in the negative—yeas 75 nays 123.

During the vote,

Mr. Hill said he should vote for an adjournment on this motion; but if the House did not adjourn he should vote against every other motion to adjourn until Mr. Smith's speech was concluded.

Mr. Kilgore stated that he had paired with Mr. Edmundson who desired to go away. If he had voted at all, he should have voted in favor of adjournment; and his friend from Virginia, who also desired to go away, if Christmas, he might, notwithstanding the pair, have voted. He declined to vote.

Mr. McPherson stated that he had paired till Thursday next, with Mr. Whiteley, who had been called home by the sudden illness of a member of his family.

Mr. Phelps stated that he had paired with Mr. Stratton.

Mr. Vallandigham stated that he thought that the House ought to have Mr. Smith's speech finished before adjournment; and therefore he voted "no."

Mr. Webster said: A sense of justice to me would not say one word here, so that I may be consistent on the record. I have heretofore voted for every motion to adjourn, because an impression seemed to have prevailed throughout the country that Congress would do something extremely dangerous and extremely deleterious to the country. On that view, I have always voted "aye" on the motion to adjourn, knowing that no damage could be done after the House adjourned. [Laughter.] But I now feel called upon to vote differently, and for this reason: I was with my constituents last week, and, talking me up as the champion of the country, they informed me that in their opinion the crisis had passed, [laughter], and that no evil to the country would befall, from Congress being in session. I understand that the distinguished gentleman from Virginia desires to go on with his remarks. With all due consideration for those gentlemen who feel inclined to adjourn, I feel in my conscientious duty to vote "no."

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. Allow me to say, that I voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Winslow. I think we might come to some understanding that would be satisfactory to all. I propose that it shall be the agreement upon all sides, that no vote shall be taken to-day. Then the gentleman from Virginia may go on with his speech.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I object to that.

Mr. McKnight. Understanding that the gentleman from Virginia objects to having his audience diminished, I object to that.

Mr. Boswell. I do not know whether it has been announced that my colleague, (Mr. Clemens), has paired off with the gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. Ashley); and that my colleague, (Mr. Edmundson), has paired off with the gentleman from Indiana, (Mr. Kilgore).

The Clerk. It has been so announced.

Mr. Boswell. I have only this additional remark to make: If they had been here, they would have voted in the affirmative, and I am authorized to state that, if either of the gentlemen with whom they are paired, are disposed to vote for an adjournment, they may do so.

Mr. Fouke. Understanding that the gentleman from Virginia wishes to continue his remarks to-day, [laughter], I change my vote, and vote against an adjournment.

Mr. Hagles. I have no objection to motions to adjourn in the negative; but differing with my colleague from Maryland, and believing that a great deal of mischief may be done, I vote "aye."

Mr. Hill. I would remark that on a recent occasion, in the most eloquent speech to which I have had the pleasure of listening for some time, it was remarked by a most distinguished statesman, that all things must have an end. Even this contest for the Speakership, it is said, must have an end. It occurs to me that if he had ever been present in this House, on an occasion like today, and heard us engaged in a course of debate as has been indulged in to-day, he would not have hazarded the assertion. [Laughter.]

Now, sir, I move, in the utmost good nature, that my friend from Virginia, if he desires it, be permitted to continue his remarks to their conclusion, and that this House stands adjourned until that conclusion, [roars of laughter,] without any vote being taken for Speaker.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I know not for what reason it is that gentlemen are disposed to treat me in the manner which they are now doing.

Mr. Hill. I disclaim for myself any unkindness.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I have borne myself as every gentleman will bear me with, with the utmost courtesy to every one on this floor. For two days I have yielded the floor to every gentleman who has applied to me for it. And now, when I have indicated a wish from the beginning to gratify a number of gentlemen who have spoken to me on the subject, by yielding for an adjournment; now that I have got into my speech, there is every disposition manifested to show me disrespect.

Mr. Hill. I disclaim it.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I know not why it is. I ask if there has been anything in my conduct to justify it?

Mr. Houston. It is Christmas time.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. It is Christmas time, and I have yielded, time after time and hour after hour, for motions to adjourn, for

to others, I change my vote and vote in the affirmative.

Mr. John Cochrane. I wish to change my vote. I think this is a very solemn time. [Excessive merriment.] I think the day is a solemn day, and I would sit here and pass this day among the solemnities of this Hall. I vote "no." [Shouts of laughter.]

Mr. Briggs. I wish to change my vote, for the reason given by my colleague, [Mr. John Cochrane.] I would vote "no," also for the purpose of affording the distinguished gentleman from Virginia an opportunity of concluding his speech. Or, if the gentleman from Virginia would give us some reasonable guarantee as to the probable time for occupying the floor, I should be glad to stipulate that he shall continue during the holiday week, which for all political purposes would answer as well as an adjournment. [Laughter.] I vote "no."

Mr. Cox said he had been desired to announce that Mr. Sickles had paired off.

The vote was then announced as above recorded.

Mr. Hill. I have a proposition to make now. I say, without meaning any disrespect to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, that it is useless to disguise the fact that gentlemen would not for the best speaking could be made, sit here to-day and listen to it. I have listened to much he said, and it is but justice to say that there is much information in it. I have heard gentlemen say that they intended to read it.

A Member. Who said that?

Mr. Hill. I heard Mr. Cobb, of Alabama, say he intended to read it. [Laughter.]

Mr. Cobb, of Ala.—I have listened to it as well as I could, but I do not recollect saying that I intended to read it. [Increased laughter.]

Mr. Morris, of Illinois. I object to the gentleman from Virginia yielding the floor for any purpose whatever.

Mr. Hill. I have not heard all the gentleman's speech, and I desire to read it. But, in order to allow the gentleman to finish it to-day, I move that no vote for Speaker be taken before one o'clock to-morrow.

There being no objection; the motion was put and carried.

Mr. Morris, of Illinois. I believe I am in time now; there is no motion before the House. I object to the gentleman from Virginia yielding the floor for any purpose, unless he yields unconditionally.

Mr. Keitt. I submit that the gentleman from Virginia has the right to yield the floor for an adjournment.

Mr. Harris, of Maryland. I move that the House do now adjourn.

The Clerk. Does the gentleman from Virginia yield for that purpose.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia. I have done it a dozen times, and no good has come of it.—[Laughter.]

The Clerk. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Morris] objects to the gentleman from Virginia yielding the floor for that purpose. Several Members—He has no right to object.

Messrs. Conkling, Buffington, Wo draff, and others, demanded the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia—I ask what is the use of calling the yeas and nays. I have done my best to practice the courtesy due to the House. I have yielded repeatedly for motions to adjourn, under a sense of its propriety. I know not why it is that gentlemen persist in going on in the way they are doing.

Mr. Harris, of Maryland—I withdraw the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wilson—I renew it. [Loud cries of "X" "X" "X"—"Withdraw it,"]

Mr. Conkling demanded the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. Barksdale—I hope the gentleman from Indiana will withdraw his motion to adjourn and allow the gentleman from Virginia to go on with his speech, and conclude it. [Cries of "That is right!" "No!" "X" "X" "X"]

The Clerk—Does the gentleman from Indiana withdraw his motion?

Mr. Wilson—As gentlemen on the other side ask me to withdraw my motion to adjourn, I do so.

Mr. Burnett—I ask the gentleman from Virginia to yield me the floor.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia—I do sir.

[Cries of "Object!" from the Republican benches.]

Mr. Burnett—Gentlemen cannot object.—The gentleman from Virginia has the right to yield for a motion to adjourn; which motion I now make.

The motion was agreed to; and thereupon (at twenty minutes past three o'clock, p. m.) the House adjourned.

In the Senate, yesterday, immediately after the reading of the journal, the President's Annual Message was received, and after the transaction of a little routine business of no general interest to the public—

Mr. Everson, of Oregon, moved that the message be read from the table and read.

Mr. Collamer, of Vermont, objected. He thought it was the understanding that no action was to be taken by the Senate on any subject during the holidays.

Mr. Davis, of Miss., contended that the mere reading of the message before the Senate, was no act of the Senate, and he thought that it was the duty of the Senate to let the document be read and go before the country.

Mr. Fessenden, of Me., was opposed to the reading.

Mr. Bayard, of Del., suggested that it would be showing disrespect to the Chief Magistrate of the Nation not to read his Annual Message on its being sent to them.

The motion to read prevailed—yeas 25, nays 12—the Message was then read.

At the conclusion of the reading, Mr. Brown, of Miss., said that he wished to discuss the Message, but as it had been agreed to transact no business until Tuesday next, he would forbear. He moved to lay it upon the table.

Mr. Bright, of Ind., moved that the Message be printed, which motion was laid over.

Mr. Sidel, of La., said that the report of the Secretary of the Treasury was upon the table. He moved it be referred to the Committee on Finance and be printed; pending which, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. Smith, of Va., continued his speech. He denied that the Democratic party had, as was charged, originated the agitation of the slavery question. As to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the Whig party was solely responsible for that act.

At the reading of various extracts to show that the aims, purposes, and objects of the Republican party were hostile to the domestic peace and tranquility of the South.

He vindicated the action of the militia and people of Virginia, at Harper's Ferry, from the false aspersions which had been cast upon them by the Republican press at the North. Especially did he allude to the forbearance and kindness of the people as regarded the treatment of John Brown and his companions.

Resolved, That — he, and he is hereby chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives for ten days next ensuing the adoption of this resolution. [Cries of "I object." "I object," from the Republican side.]

Mr. Houston.—Consent has been given to hear the resolution read for information, and it is, therefore, too late to make objection now.

The Clerk.—The Secretary will continue the reading of the resolution.

The Secretary continued reading, as follows:—

"And resolved, further, that no question be entertained during that time except motions to adjourn, to receive the President's message, and the reports of the Secretaries, and, in order, the same to be printed, or to act upon bills appropriating money to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Post Office Department. And that the Speaker so elected shall receive only the compensation of a member of this House; and at the end of the stated time, or as soon as such appropriation bill shall have become a law, the office of Speaker shall be declared vacant, and the House shall proceed, under existing laws, to the election of Speaker. [Cries of "I object," "I object," from the same side.]

Mr. Houston.—Mr. Clerk, I desire the reporters of the Globe to note the fact that this objection to the same came from the Republican side of the House. This feeling tests the sincerity of those gentlemen who pretend to sympathize so greatly with the mail contractors of the Government.

On motion, the House then proceeded to the twenty-second trial for Speaker, which resulted as follows:

Whole number of votes cast, 208. Necessary for a choice, 105. Mr. Sherman, 101; Mr. Scott, 17; Mr. Houston, 15; Mr. Gilmer, 14; Mr. Boacok, 14; Mr. Maylay, 12; Mr. J. G. Davis, 5. Scattering, 25.

At the conclusion of the ballot, and at 10 minutes past 4 o'clock, the House adjourned.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The article in the Gazette of Saturday last, headed the "Commercial Interests of Virginia," was the most conclusive argument on the subject discussed, that I have seen since the late excitement commenced — and it cannot fail to make a strong impression upon every one who reads it. I have no idea who the author is, but he not only holds the pen of a ready writer, but states facts and gives reasons in a most convincing manner. If that article had been written before the "Citizen's Meeting," as it is called, several of the resolutions adopted at that meeting would never have been passed.

MERCATOR.

MAILED.

In the M. E. Church, Alexandria, Va., on Tuesday morning, 27th inst., by Rev. W. S. Edwards, Mr. WALTER B. WADDY and Miss AMANDA A. WOOD.

On Wednesday morning, the 21st instant, at the M. E. Church, of Shepherdstown, by Rev. S. S. LUTZEL, Rev. J. W. LEECH, of the Baltimore Annual Conference, to Miss ELEN LEE TOWNER, youngest daughter of the late B. T. Towner, of Shepherdstown.

At Eldwell, near Port Gibson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., by the Rev. Dr. BUTLER, to Miss MARY ANN WILSON, daughter of the Rev. J. C. Wilcox, of Madison county, Miss.

DIED.

In Washington, on the 24th inst., at the residence of his son-in-law, S. C. Wailes, Mr. THOS. STANFORD, formerly of Baltimore, in the 36th year of his age.

COMMERCIAL.

Alexandria Market, December 27.

The market opened very quiet, with light receipts. The holidays interfere materially with sending produce to the export, and light receipts may be expected to continue until after the 1st proximo. The freezing of the streams in the upper country has caused a great falling off in the amount of flour, and less than 100 barrels were brought down by railroads. Flour closed quiet; sales of 6,000 barrels; State \$3.56½ to \$3.20; Ohio \$3.40 to \$3.75; Southern \$3.40 to \$3.75. Wheat closed quiet. Groceries closed firm, but prices unchanged. 1500 Corn arrived at New York, sales of 3,200 bushels; new white and yellow \$2½ to \$3. Pork closed heavy; new \$16; prime \$11.62. Whiskey closed quiet at 24c.

NEW YORK MARKET.

New York, Dec. 27.—Cotton closed firm; sales of 2,000 bales. Flour closed quiet; sales of 6,000 barrels; State \$3.56½ to \$3.20; Ohio \$3.40 to \$3.75; Southern \$3.40 to \$3.75. Wheat closed quiet. Groceries closed firm, but prices unchanged. 1500 Corn arrived at New York, sales of 3,200 bushels; new white and yellow \$2½ to \$3. Pork closed heavy; new \$16; prime \$11.62. Whiskey closed quiet at 24c.

ALMANAC. 1859.

DECEMBER MONTH. SUN. MON. TUES. WEDNESDAY. THURSDAY. FRIDAY. SATURDAY.

1 7 21 4 30 5 12 19  
2 8 22 5 31 6 13 20  
3 9 23 6 1 7 14 21  
4 10 24 7 2 8 15 22  
5 11 25 8 3 9 16 23  
6 12 26 9 4 10 17 24  
7 13 27 10 5 11 18 25  
8 14 28 11 6 12 19 26  
9 15 29 12 7 13 20 27  
10 16 30 1 8 14 21 28  
11 17 31 2 9 15 22 29  
12 18 1 3 10 16 23 30  
13 19 2 4 11 17 24 31

MARKET LIST.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA—DECEMBER 27.

ARRIVED.

Steamship Monticello, stagger, New York, to Fowle & Co.

Schr. E. H. Atwood, Rich, Boston, for Georgetown.

Schr. E. A. Elliot, Stanton, Madison County, to Master.

Schr. Brothers, Davey, New York, to American Coal Co.

Schr. Henry Finch, Davey, New York, to American Coal Co.

Schr. Statesman, Mott, New York, to Stephen Smith.

Steamer Columbia, Harper, Baltimore, to Wheat & Bro.

SAILED.

Schr. Joseph Holmes, Matthews, Providence, to Lehighy M. Elbridge & Co.

MEMORANDA.

Steamships M. unt Vernon, Smith, and Parkersburg, Powell, hence at New York, 24th inst.

Schooner E. A. House, Sprague, hence for Boston, arrived at Holmes Hole, 22d inst., and Trumpp, Arts, hence for Boston, arrived at do. 23d inst.

Schr. Minnesota, Baker, hence at Boston, 24th inst.

Schr. Eliza Jane, Sturgess, cleared at Boston, or Washington, 24th inst.

Schr. Edward A. Ballet, Low, from George town, arrived at Portward, 23d inst.

Schs. H. W. Morse, Phillips, A. H. Brown, Edwards, & Co., from New York, hence for Tautan, arrived at Fall River, 23d inst.

Schs. Yankee Doodle, Ellery, and Bewlay, —, hence for New York 26th inst.

Schs. Yorktown, Wogham, Mrs. Deschamps, J. S. Seelye, & Co., from New York, hence for Baltimore, and Elliott, Whilden, from Georgetown, arrived at New York, 20th inst.

LIST.—On Sunday afternoon last, on Prince Georges Washington street, between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the residence of Wm. B. Richards, Sr., a CAMEO BRACELET, large diamonds set in the middle, and a small one on either side, for the value of \$1000, was liberally rewarded by leaving it at this office.

BARNES R. L. & A. STUART'S STEAM

**LOCAL ITEMS.**

CITY COUNCIL. LAST NIGHT.—Board of Aldermen.—J. B. Taylor, President, presided.

Mr. Armstrong, from the Committee on Claims, reported in favor of the remission of a tax on a slave, each, charged to Capt. Samuel Baker, and Messrs. John T. Hill, and James S. Rogers; in favor of granting compensation of \$20 to Police Officer, Joseph Williams, of Washington, for the capture of certain alleged offenders; in favor of reducing an income tax charged to independence Francis; in favor of a change in the tax on fees charged to C. M. Castleman, Deputy Sheriff, to James Sangster, Sheriff; and adverse to the applications of J. George Newton, and John T. Hill, for reduction of assessment; all which reports were adopted, except that portion relative to the application of Mr. Castleman, which was recommitted.

Mr. Bryan presented the petition of John Withers, for a reduction of the assessment on two stores.

Mr. Armstrong moved to lay the petition on the table. The Committee on Claims had decided on the rule that real estate paid no taxes on the assessment, no reduction ought to be made; it was, therefore, unnecessary to refer this petition, since this property rented for \$1400. The petition was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. Bryan submitted an order that the petition of F. A. Marbury, for remission of six of \$100, as Agent of the Albemarle Insurance Company, with accompanying papers, be withdrawn from the files, and referred to the Committee on Claims, which order was adopted.

Mr. Armstrong, from the Committee on Claims, made a report on the subject of the salvert on the property of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad Company, which was laid on the table for future consideration.

A petition of Robert J. Lackey asking a reduction of assessment on property at the E. corner of King and Union, streets, was referred to the Committee on Claims.—The Board concurred in the reference of Mr. Johnston's letter, &c., relative to the Court House, also, in the reference of the report of the Trustees of the poor.

The petition of Christopher Neale for a reduction of assessment on buildings at the corner of King and Washington, sts., was received, and referred to the Committee on Claims.

The letter of Lewis McKenzie, esq., the delegate of the county in the General Assembly, relative to a proposed repeal of the amendment to the city charter, annexing that part of the County of Fairfax lying north of Hunting Creek to the City, and the proposed extension of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad to Strasburg, was received, read, and referred to the Committee on Claims.

The Board laid on the table the amendment to the joint resolutions adopted by the other board, and concurred in their order recommending the report of the Committee on Claims. Adjourned.

In the Common Council, Lewis McKenzie president, presided.

A resolution of assent was received from R. Johnston relative to a bill proposed in the General Assembly regarding the sale of the court House.

Mr. Latham introduced an order directing the remission of the gas bills due from the several fire companies. Mr. Smoot offered a substitute allowing the Companies to use the gas until the committee on light should report upon the subject; both of which were laid on the table.

Mr. Kinzer introduced an amendment to the joint resolutions authorizing either board to refer subjects to joint committees, which was agreed to.

Council concurred in the action of the Board of Aldermen recommitting the bill amending the city charter and referring memorials of John Waters, F. A. Marbury, Neale, and a letter of Lewis McKenzie, to appropriate committees.

Council refused to concur in the action of the Board of Aldermen relative to the claims of J. S. Rogers and others and recommended that they be unusually pleasant.

At the memorial of R. J. Lackey which was laid on the table. Adjourned.

CHRISTMAS DAY.—The Christmas which fell upon Sunday, was appropriately observed in the Churches of the city. Throughout the streets there was little sign of mirth, and the louder observances of the day were, by common consent, most properly postponed till Monday, which was observed with gusto. The day was unusually pleasant, indeed of all the month. The atmosphere was brighter, but as genial as in April. Summer, and overcasts had to be left behind as membranes. The streets were thronged from morn to eve with throngs of men and children, who seemed determined to brave out the holiday; and, notwithstanding the reports of pistols, and the bursting of fuzils and fire crackers—the noise of which continued, without intermission, during the entire holiday—not a few ladies were lured abroad by the exceeding pleasantness of the weather. The quiet of the citizenry in the upper part of the town was a good deal disturbed by the firing of guns, pistols, and fireworks on the sidewalks, by collections of idle boys and young men, and ladies and gentlemen were much frightened and annoyed in the manner in which the firing was kept up. The day was observed with greater mirth than has been seen here for several years. At night, rockets and other fireworks were set off at various places, and the noisy mirth did not entirely cease its run in midnight.

The quiet pleasures of the fireside, the union of families and friends, the presents, the Christmas trees, and the social games and gladdening music in the parlors, where the family were forgotten, and the noisier range of the streets. It was Merry Christmas in many a happy home, and the slumber that flowed was the smiling sleep of innocence, and brought neither head nor heart-ache.

Among the incidents of the day, we mention the gathering of the children of the Baptist Church Sabbath School, with their teachers and friends, in the Church basement, where they spent the morning in singing and listening to addresses from their pastor and Teachers; and after these exercises, each scholar came forward, and the school was called, and from the hands of the superintendent were received a Christmas Gift, numbered and eighty-two gifts were thus distributed, and all appeared happy and cheerful.

CHRISTMAS EVE.—Christmas Eve did not elude appropriate observance in this city. Social parties gathered, full of glee, under many a hospitable roof, and many a reunion of friends made ready in advance, for "Merry Christmas."

At Green's Mansion House, a hospitable board was spread, and a number of guests were entertained, and a number of generous

[illegible]

**POSTSCRIPT.**

**BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.**

from California.—By the Overland Mail. (Lafayette's) Station, Mo., Dec. 26.—The daily mail from San Francisco at noon the 25th, arrived here on Sunday. The Washoe arrived here on Sunday to the richly. The recent heavy rains had of great benefit to the miners. The Metz and silver mines of Tuolumne could set in operation over 150 stamps which have been idle for months. The Calaveras river and its tributaries overflowed their banks, doing great damage.

The silver mines at the fork of Carson river were found to yield \$1000 per ton. A meeting at Carson valley had prepared a memorial to Congress, against the conduct of the Clerk of the U. S. District Court, in suing to court votes by which J. J. Warner was elected delegate to Congress, in aid of Judge Crane, deceased.

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**Later from Mexico.**

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 27.—The steamship messengers, from Vera Cruz, has arrived, but advices are not very important. A portion of a cargo of guns and carabines arrived by the Juarez Government, had arrived at Vera Cruz from New York.

The bark Julia Dean, from Havre, bound for Vera Cruz, was lost on the 9th, in a gale off the Yucatan port. The crew were saved, the vessel was a total loss.

The galleon had arrived at Vera Cruz.—The ship was quiet, and no attack was apprehended.

Marquez had been imprisoned by Miramonte on a charge of insubordination. The Liberal forces at Totitlan, in Oajaca, were surprised and captured by the Mexican party.

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**The Yacht Wanderer.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The story that Lincolnton Bath, Me., was in any way connected with the yacht Wanderer, is a gross fabrication. Capt. Patten has been at home for several weeks, and knows of all men, and does not one of the characteristics attributed to David Martin.

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**Fire.**

WILMINGTON, N. Y., Dec. 26.—Bunnell's malt house in this city was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. It was insured for \$7,000, and about covers the loss.

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**Steamer Burnt—Loss of Life.**

MISSISSIPPI, Dec. 27.—The steamer Vixen of Pittsburg for St. Louis, was burnt yesterday. Loss of boat and cargo, \$20,000. George Mott, a school teacher, of Lynchburg, Va., was burnt to death.

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**Fire in New Orleans, etc.**

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 26.—The large jeweller of Hyde & Goorich, in Canal street, burned on Sunday. Loss about \$100,000. The ship Fanny Fern, from Havre, has arrived with the statue of Henry Clay.

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**Death of Hon. Timothy Jenkins.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Hon. Timothy Jenkins died on Saturday at Martinsburg. He was in attendance at Court. He represented this County in Congress, was one of the most distinguished lawyers in Central New York.

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**Railroad Casualty.**

PORT JACO, Ga., Dec. 26.—A collision occurred on the Central road, on Sunday morning. A train from Macon, by which one negro was killed, five others severely wounded. One man was mortally wounded. No particulars, as yet.

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**AUCTION SALES.**

**GRIFTS' SALE.**—By virtue of a warrant of execution issued in favor of the Alexandria Company, against James K. Wilson, I will for sale, by auction, ON THURSDAY, the 28th DAY OF JANUARY, 1860, at noon, the following property, viz: SIX (6) CANAL BOATS, now lying in and under the dock of the said Wilson, on the Alexandria, near the Potomac Aqueduct, with their appurtenances and equipment, the same having been taken under a writ of sequestration, to assist in due the said company. Terms cash. To take place at the said dock.

28—dis C. M. CASTLEMAN, D. S.

**VALUABLE SLAVES FOR SALE.**—By virtue of a decree of the County Court of Alexandria, Co., rendered in the case of Birch, et al. against Birch, &c., the undersigned, will for sale at Samuel Catts' Tavern, West End, MONDAY, JANUARY SECOND, 1860, at 10 o'clock, M., the following lively SLAVES, to-wit: Samuel, Robert, Allen, Simon, and Elizabeth, or two children. The above slaves are very strong and valuable as farm hands, and can bring out recommendations as honest, industrious, and obedient servants. For further information, enquire of Henry Birch, No. 200, twelfth street, Washington, D. C.

28—dis\* RANDOLPH BIRCH, } Executors of John  
HENRY BIRCH, } Birch, dec'd.

28—dis\*

**ALEXANDRIA REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** ON LONG CREDIT.—By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Cabell County, Mo., in the last August term, in the case of M. Peyton, against the heirs of Thomas Adams, deceased, the undersigned, will, on the Monday in January next, at the front door of the Court House of Alexandria County, Va., sell public auction, for cash, the highest bidder, all LOT OF LAND, in the city of Alexandria, bounded by what was formerly known as the Washington Tavern, now known as the BARSHALL HOUSE, together with the Store and belonging to the heirs, appertaining to three equal credits of 12, 18, and 24 months, reserving good and security, and title reserved as further bond. Other particulars in the bill of sale.

28—dis HENRY J. RAMUELS, } Special  
JOHN LAIDLAY, } Commrs.

20—dis

**LOTS OF BUILDING LOTS.**—Will be offered in auction ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER TWENTY-NINTH, on the premises, at 12 o'clock, FORTY-SEVEN BUILDING LOTS, situated on the north side of Gibbon, between Pitt and State streets.

**SALES OF REAL ESTATE.**—One-fifth cash, the balance 12, 18, and 24 months, with interest—title to be shown when the last payment is made. Deeds paid for by the purchaser.

10—dis To be sold at the same time, a GROUND of \$22 per annum, on a lot fronting 22 ft. St. Asaph street, and 115 feet deep.

10—dis T. M. MCCORMICK, Aucr.

The above sale is postponed to THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-SECOND INSTANT, at 10 o'clock and place.

21—dis T. M. MCCORMICK, Aucr.

The above sale is further postponed to FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-NINTH INSTANT, at the same hour, in front of the Mayor's office.

74—dis

**PUBLIC SALE OF NEGROES.**—I will sell at Public Sale, at Aquia, on Monday, 2nd day of January, 1860, (that being Court day,) two very fine NEGROES—a Man and woman. They are a capital Farm hand, and a good Driver. The man is a most excellent Cook, Washer, and good House Servant generally.

each. JANE BELL, Guardian and